(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) About 115 acres of land out of GLR Sy. No. 442 was acquired for Army use, where some hutments in three pockets exist in general area of 108 Bazaar, Secunderabad Cantonment. The requisite acquisition cost of Rs. 1,24,27,187/- has already been paid to the State Government. This includes the acquisition cost of Rs. 1,37,445/- in respect of land measuring 1 acre and 07 guntas, where these hutment dwellers are in existence, and Rs. 3900/- as shifting charges @ Rs. 100/- per unit. It is now the responsibility of the State Government to rehabilitate the hutment dwellers to an alternate site.

Modernised training for Armed Forces

1410. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided not to slash the strength of the Armed Forces, as was planned a few years back;

(b) whether Government has started a programme for providing latest sophisticated arms and ammunition to the Armed Forces; and

(c) whether training of Armed Forces has been modernised keeping in view the changed role of forces *i.e.,* defending the borders; curbing of militancy and insurgency?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Government has not taken any decision to slash the strength of Armed Forces.

(b) and (c) Induction of latest sophisticated arms and ammunition in the Armed Forces is a continuous and on-going process as a part of modernization programme. There is no change in the role of the Armed Forces. However, the training of Armed Forces is continuously monitored, reviewed and modernized by enhancing use of electronic and computerized equipment and training aids like simulators and computer based training packages.